

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 25, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1931

Introduced by Assembly Member Gorell

February 22, 2012

An act to add Section 90 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1931, as amended, Gorell. Department of Veterans Affairs: consolidation of services to veterans.

Existing law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is responsible for administering various programs and services for the benefit of veterans.

This bill would establish the California Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division within the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of coordinating and administering veterans assistance programs in the state, and would require the division to perform various functions and duties relating to the coordination and administration of veterans assistance programs, as specified. The bill would require the administrative and support staff responsible for the administration of the specified programs to be transferred from the Employment Development Department to the division, and would require the costs of the transfer to utilize existing resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 90 is added to the Military and Veterans
2 Code, to read:
3 90. (a) The California Veterans Services and Workforce
4 Development Division is hereby established within the department
5 for the purpose of coordinating and administering veterans
6 assistance programs in the state. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
7 shall have authority over the division.
8 (b) The division shall do all of the following:
9 (1) Coordinate with other state agencies, *including, but not*
10 *limited to, the California Interagency Council on Veterans*, that
11 provide benefits and assistance to veterans to ensure that
12 information about veterans assistance programs and benefits is
13 made available to all state agencies that serve veterans in the state.
14 (2) Administer the ~~Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and~~
15 ~~oversee the duties of Local Veterans' Employment Representatives~~
16 ~~(LVER) as prescribed under the federal Jobs for Veterans State~~
17 ~~Grants program, in cooperation with the Employment Development~~
18 ~~Department (EDD) programs and services described in the federal~~
19 ~~Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program, including, but not limited~~
20 ~~to, overseeing the federal Local Veterans' Employment~~
21 ~~Representatives program (LVER), and the Transition Assistance~~
22 ~~Program (TAP), as currently administered by the Employment~~
23 ~~Development Department (EDD).~~ The division shall work with
24 staff from the EDD to develop a plan whereby responsibility for
25 the administration of ~~TAP and the LVER~~ *these programs* shall be
26 transferred from the EDD to the division. The development of the
27 plan shall be completed on or before May 1, 2013.
28 (3) Ensure that other state agencies and officials that are
29 involved in the implementation and administration of veterans
30 services programs are informed when any changes in existing
31 programs are required, or new programs are established that
32 provide assistance and benefits to veterans, and require that those
33 agencies and officials report to the division when those changes
34 occur or new programs are established.

1 ~~(4) Coordinate with staff from other state agencies, including,~~
2 ~~but not limited to, the Labor and Workforce Development Agency,~~
3 ~~the Employment Training Panel, the California Workforce~~
4 ~~Investment Board, the State Department of Mental Health, the~~
5 ~~Department of General Services, the State Department of Alcohol~~
6 ~~and Drug Programs, and representatives of the University of~~
7 ~~California, the California State University, and the California~~
8 ~~Community Colleges with regard to the provision of veterans~~
9 ~~services and benefits.~~

10 ~~(4) Collaborate with the California Interagency Council on~~
11 ~~Veterans to implement any further change to the delivery of~~
12 ~~veterans services not prescribed by the plan in paragraph (2) to~~
13 ~~implement this section.~~

14 (c) (1) In complying with this section, all administrative and
15 support staff responsible for the administration of TAP and the
16 LVER shall be transferred from the EDD to the division.

17 (2) Any costs associated with the implementation of these
18 transfers shall utilize existing resources of the Department of
19 Veterans Affairs, as the operational cost of these programs utilizes
20 funding from the Jobs for Veterans State Grant program, as
21 prescribed within the United States Department of Labor.